

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
DOVER, DELAWARE**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018

The January monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, 1st Floor Hearing Room, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor SOS Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Calvin Christopher. Commissioners Jamaal Bivens, Whittona Burrell, Erika Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Earnest Gulab, Kerri Harris, Prameela Kaza, Gail Launey-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Olga Ramirez, Walter Smith, Robert Watson Jr., Rosemarie Williams, and Dolores Finger-Wright. DAG Carla Jarosz.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Diaz Bonville (excused), Bernice Edwards (excused), Lorenzo Murdaugh (unexcused) and Roy Sudler Jr. (unexcused).

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Romona Fullman, Vincent Petroff, and Kelly Brown.

Members of the public present: None.

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 5:44 p.m. followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November SHRC meeting were submitted. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Olga Ramirez. The motion was seconded by Prameela Robert Watson. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

III Members of the Public Present:

None

IV Chair's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p><u>A Year in Review</u> – Chair Calvin Christopher thanked the Deputy Attorney Generals for their support this past year.</p>			
<p><u>Priorities for 2018</u> – Chair Calvin Christopher stated the Commission and the Division continue to maintain their focus in 2018 with the challenges that have been presented.</p> <p>The Ivy Report, released in 2016, addressed diversity and inclusion in Delaware state government. One of the recommendations in the report was to hire a Chief Diversity Officer. The Department of Human Resources recently filled the position. Chair Christopher will invite Mr. Keith Hunt to a future Commission meeting.</p> <p>Chair Christopher communicated there has been an increase in school violence, white supremacy act and other acts of hate. He suggested the Commission determine what their role is in this field as there is still a lot of work to be done.</p> <p>The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) will continue to impact the way the Commission does business. The Commission must continue complying with the requirements of FOIA.</p> <p>Chair Calvin Christopher reported that he has identified the following priorities for 2018.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Follow through on recommendations of the Joint Sunset Review Committee. <p>Opportunities to add a Sussex County location</p>			

<p>for video-conferencing are being explored.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Amendments to the By-laws. In the past, the Chair of the Commission has been appointed by the Governor. Once the Amendments to the By-laws are complete the selection of a chair will be done via an election process. A draft of the amendments was sent out via email yesterday. 3. Develop an election process for a new SHRC Chair. The outgoing Chair will provide guidance and assistance to the new Chair during the transition period regarding the duties and responsibilities of the role. 4. Establish media and public relations practices for the Commission to allow the timely response to incidents. <p>Chair Christopher inquired whether Commissioners had received and reviewed the draft of amendments to the By-Laws. DAG Carla Jarosz read the draft amendment aloud (section 3, Election of the Chairperson) to facilitate discussion. The discussion points related to - creating a nominating committee, how to break a tie, term of the appointment, term limits, removal of a Chair, and selection of a Vice-chair. Commissioners were asked to email recommended edits directly to Harris by January 18th by 5:00 pm.</p>	<p>Email recommendations to the bylaws to Kerri Harris.</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18th.</p>
<p><u>Follow Through of Joint Sunset Committee Recommendations</u> – Chair Christopher gave an overview of the Sunset review process. On the recommendation of reducing the Commission from 28</p>			

to 18 members, he reported that the goal of 18 had been achieved via voluntary resignations.			
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V Director's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Director Romona Fullman advised an electronic version of the Director's Report.	Send Director's report electronically	Director Romona Fullman	Undefined
Director Fullman reported that the Dept. of State's Joint Finance Committee budget hearing is scheduled for January 31, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., in legislative hall, and the Commissioners are welcomed to attend and offer public comment.	Attend JFC Hearing	All Commissioners	January 31, 2018 1:00 p.m.
Director Fullman advised that the process for filling the vacant Kent County Investigator position is underway and that Commissioner Rosemarie Williams will serve on the interview panel (along with Vincent Petroff and Ines Hungria).	Hold interviews to fill vacant investigator position	Direr Fullman/Supervisor Vince Petroff	End of January 2018
Director Fullman shared that Kelly Brown's last day with the Division will be Friday, January 19 th . She has accepted another position within the state.			
Director Fullman advised that the Division is developing a series of free and fee-based fair housing training courses. Series to launch soon.	Develop Fair Housing Training Series	Director Fullman	Spring 2018
Director Fullman advised that the Division (DHR) recommends the name of the agency be changed to better reflect its function, and to eliminate being confused with the new Department of Human Resources (DHR).			

Director Fullman advised that Tuesday, January 16 th is being observed as a National Day of Racial Healing by the Kellogg Foundation. An event has planned to participate in the observation- details will be emailed along with links to recommended actions for individuals and communities.	Email information and links on National Day of Racial Healing	Director Fullman	January 12, 2018
Director Fullman reported the HUD Secretary has put on hold a previously approved initiative designed to require local governments to take specific steps toward addressing the realities of housing segregation.			
Director Romona Fullman communicated that a panel will need to be established to conduct a motion hearing for a housing complaint.	Set-up motion hearing	Admin. Specialist II, Annette Fletcher DAG Carla Jarosz	Week of January 15, 2018

VI Committee Reports

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<u>Public Awareness Committee</u> – Chair Christopher is looking for a Commissioner interested and willing to chair this Committee.			
<u>Legislation Committee</u> – No report.			
<u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Nancy Maihoff informed that the Community Response Committee met with Claudia Waters (and a colleague) concerning allegations of discrimination involving black students at the George Washington Educational Center, Indian River School District. She will meet with Ms. Waters prior to the February Commission meeting.			

Commissioner Nancy Maihoff inquired of the Division how many Mentoring Resumes have been submitted by Commissioners, indicating her records show only one. She urged Commissioners to complete and submit the form previously distributed.			
Commissioner Nancy Maihoff reported that she is scheduled to meet with the representative from the Dover Human Relations Commission next week.	Meeting with Dover Human Relations Commission Representative	Commissioner Nancy Maihoff	Week of January 15, 2018

VII Old Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Sunshine Fund – An envelope was circulated in both Dover and Wilmington for contributions. An accounting for funds was provided to Commissioners.			

VIII New Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commissioner Whittona Burrell shared details of an event planned to recognize January as Human Relations Awareness Month. The Discussion Forum on “Delaware Immigrants and the American Dream” is scheduled for Friday, January 26 th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. At Wesley College, Dover. Commissioner Dolores Finger-Wright expressed a concern on the wording on the flyer – it was agreed the sentence would be removed prior to further distribution.	Remove objected sentence from promotional flyer	Director Fullman	January 12, 2018
Commissioner Dolores Finger-Wright reported she received positive feedback on a recent Comcast			

<p>Newsmakers segment which featured her as an SHRC Commissioner and an advocate of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Her students at Delaware State University students who are “Dreamers” were particularly appreciative. All Comcast Newsmakers segments (dozens) featuring Commissioners or Division staff have been arranged by former Commissioner Doug James</p>			
<p>Commissioner Kerri Harris shared information about a poverty simulation exercise to give people a sense of the challenges of living in poverty. She will email details to Commissioners.</p>	<p>Send details about local poverty simulation exercise event.</p>	<p>Commissioner Kerri Harris</p>	
<p>Commissioner Harris advised she is coordinating a bus trip to West Virginia for a peaceful protest. She will email details to Commissioners in case of interest.</p>	<p>Send details about peaceful protest in West Virginia</p>	<p>Commissioner Kerri Harris</p>	
<p>Chair Calvin Christopher read an email from Douglas James that was sent the Governor’s office resigning from the Commission due to work and family obligations.</p> <p>Commissioner Nancy Maihoff inquired if the oral resignation from Commissioner Roy Sudler provided at previous full Commission has been accepted. Chair Calvin Christopher expressed that a written resignation has been requested. One has not been received. He will follow up with the Boards and Commission’s office.</p>			

IX Good News

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>

Commissioner Jamaal Bivens announced he will be a speaker at the 2018 Tri-County MLK Banquet to be held at the Wicomico Civic Center.			
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XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m. by Chairperson Calvin Christopher.